

REMARKS

Remaining Claims

Twenty (20) claims (Claims 1 - 20) remain pending in this application through this Amendment. Claims 1 – 4 and 16 have been rejected by the Examiner. Claims 5 – 15 and 17 – 20 have been objected to by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter of claims 5-15 and 17-20.

Rejection of Claims 1 - 4 and 16 under 35 USC §103(a) – Nishikawa and Matthews

Claims 1 - 4 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,063) in view of Matthews (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,793). The Examiner relies on Nishikawa as teaching allowing data values that have been unloaded from memory to be reloaded into memory if a determination is made that the data value should not have been unloaded from the memory. The Examiner recognizes that Nishikawa does not teach a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory device or reloading a data value at the beginning of a sequence of data values stored in the FIFO, as recited in the claims of the present application.

The Examiner relies on Matthews as teaching a FIFO and reloading at the beginning of a sequence of data values stored in the FIFO. The Examiner then concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Nishikawa and Matthews because “that would provide non-zero start address for a block write operation to be performed.”

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection for at least the following reasons. As noted by the Examiner, Nishikawa is not directed to a

FIFO memory device. Although the Examiner relies on Matthews as disclosing a FIFO memory device, the only reference to a FIFO memory device in Matthews is in one paragraph in the Background Of The Invention in Matthews. It does not appear that Matthews is directed to a FIFO memory device. Rather, Matthews is directed to dual-port and multi-port memory devices, which are memory devices that can be accessed simultaneously by more than one controller or processor. Such memory devices are not the same as a FIFO memory device.

Nishikawa is not directed to a memory device at all, but rather is directed to a measuring instrument for measuring wavelength characteristics of light. The measuring instrument uses two separate RAM devices and moves data between them. Old data that has been moved from RAM 8 into RAM 9 can be relocated from RAM 9 back to RAM 8 in response to a restore command. As stated above, Matthews is directed to a dual or multi-port memory device. The Applicant respectfully submits that there is no suggestion for combining the teachings of Nishikawa with those of Matthews. It appears that the Examiner has combined the teachings of these two references simply because they both disclose memory. However, although Matthews is directed to the art of memory devices, Nishikawa is directed to the art of measuring instruments. Although the measuring instrument in Nishikawa uses memory, it is not directed to the art of memory devices. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that no motivation exists for combining these references and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Furthermore, neither Nishikawa nor Matthews is directed to a FIFO memory device, as claimed in the present application. As stated above, the only reference to a FIFO memory device in Matthews is in one paragraph in the Background Of The Invention in Matthews. The Examiner acknowledges that Nishikawa is not directed to a FIFO memory device. Therefore, these references, taken alone or in combination, do not teach a FIFO that allows a data value to be unloaded from the FIFO memory device, and then reloaded at the beginning of the data sequence in the FIFO memory device if a determination is made that the data value should not have been unloaded.

As noted by the Examiner, Matthews does not teach reloading a data value, but rather, loading a start address. In Matthews, a start address is stored in an address register used to access a memory array and then a series of internal address are generated based on the stored start address. Loading a start address is not the same as reloading a previously unloaded data value, as recited in the independent claims of the present application.

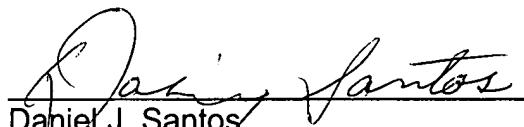
Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Nishikawa and Matthews have been improperly combined, and further that the combination does not teach the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 16. Both of these claims recite that a data value that has been unloaded from the FIFO is reloaded at the beginning of the sequence of data values in the FIFO if a determination is made that the unloaded data value should not have been unloaded. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 16 be withdrawn.

Because claims 2 – 4 depend from independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable for the reasons stated above, the rejection of these claims is believed to be moot in view of the discussions provided herein with reference to claims 1 and 16.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and the Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should there be any further questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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